

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re 1.53(b) Application of U.S.)
Application No. 09/680,435)
Inventors: Richard SCHROEDER et al.) Parent Group Art Unit: 3762
Application No.: To be Assigned) Parent Examiner: F. Oropeza
Filed: January 23, 2004)
For: METHODS AND DEVICES FOR)
IMPROVING MITRAL VALVE)
FUNCTION)
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification are included in this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings are included in this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims in this paper.

Remarks are included after the Amendment sections.

Attachments to this paper include nine (9) sheets of replacement drawings
(Figs. 1, 2a, 2b, 3a-3c, 4a-4c, 5a, 5b, 6, and 7).

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com